

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XIV.]

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1836.

[NO. 6.]

PERICARDITIS.

FROM a clinical lecture delivered at the North London Hospital, by Dr. Elliotson, we extract the following practical remarks on the above-named disease, founded on a case in that hospital.

The next case had been a well-marked case of pericarditis, which disease was entirely removed before her admission. The patient, a woman aged 29, was admitted on the 29th of August. At the end of the first week in October, the report at her admission was, that "she had menstruated sparingly, and with great pain, this being the first appearance of the catamenia for seven weeks. A week ago she was seized with difficulty of breathing, pain in the chest, increased on inspiration, and a short dry cough. She had a severe shooting pain in the cardiac region, which went through to the left shoulder and down the arm as far as the elbow. There was also great tenderness over the cardiac region, on pressing the ribs down hard; and on pressing between the ribs, and also pressing up against the diaphragm. The action of the heart became rapid and irregular. There was extreme pain in the region of the liver, the lips were livid, the tongue was brown, and there was globus hystericus. She was bled three times in the arm. Thirty leeches were applied to the side, and she took the mercury to pytalism. This treatment produced considerable relief."

Now, it is at this period of life—that is to say, just before puberty to the end of the young adult age, that pericarditis principally takes place. It occurs most frequently, I should say, between the ages of 10 and 30. No case could be better characterized than this. There was pain in the region of the heart, shooting up to the shoulder and down the left arm as far as the elbow. It is very common for the pain to stop at the elbow, and I have seen it in many instances stop an inch short of the elbow. In other cases it will run down the whole arm, and stop at the wrist, and in many cases I have seen it stop an inch above the wrist. It has been said by Dr. Andral, that pericarditis occurs frequently without pain. I believe it frequently occurs without pain, according to the patient's account, but I have never yet seen a case which I have suspected to be pericarditis, or which was proved after death to be pericarditis, in which I did not discover pain upon examination, that is to say, on pressing down upon the pericardium, or pressing up against the pericardium below the cartilages. The action of the heart is generally rapid, as it was in this case. Here it was irregular. It does not always seem to be irregular; sometimes the pulse is found to be full, and sometimes it is very

small. Now the treatment that had been adopted before her admission, appeared to me to have entirely removed her complaint ; at least so far to have subdued it, that no continuation or repetition of the measures then used were necessary. She was in a state of extreme debility, her pulse was 106, but the local symptoms appeared to have given way so considerably, that I had very little doubt that if she was kept perfectly still, and allowed nothing but the mildest food, she would do well. I therefore contented myself with ordering her gruel, barley-water, and a pint of milk a day. Her gums were tender with the mercury which had been given, and her bowels were relaxed ; she was therefore directed to take two ounces of chalk mixture after every loose evacuation. The gentleman who treated her before she came into the hospital (Mr. Bryant), was a clinical clerk here a few months ago, and he seemed to have made the diagnosis with great accuracy, and to have treated her actively and exceedingly well. In fact, in all probability, her life was saved by his treatment. She went out on the 15th perfectly recovered, no medicine having been given to her after her admission, except the little chalk mixture to restrain the action of her bowels.

DEATH FROM TAKING MORISON'S PILLS.

At a meeting of the Westminster Medical Society, in November last, Dr. Johnson, in answer to a call from Dr. Granville, detailed the post-mortem appearances of Mrs. Sarah Porter, aged 39 years, who died from effects caused by taking Morison's pills. The abdomen was rather tumid and distended ; peritoneum healthy ; stomach inflamed, presenting slight abrasions of the mucous coat ; no changes in the duodenum ; jejunum and ileum twisted in different parts one with the other, and the morbid parts had assumed the color of dark mahogany, with distinct demarcations of healthy surfaces ; the vessels were injected, and from their capillary extremities blood was extravasated ; there were no traces of ulceration, the mucous surface being simply abraded. The parietes of the heart were rather thicker than usual, probably the commencement of an hypertrophied condition. The bloodvessels of the brain were congested throughout, but there were no other morbid changes affecting the substance of that organ. In answer to a question whether the pills had ceased to produce any action some time prior to death, Dr. Johnson said that the medical gentleman in attendance, and the friends of the deceased, had informed him, that ten days prior to her death she was recommended to give to one of her children, who was troubled with palpitation of the heart, some of "Morison's Pills ;" she complied, but the child got worse. Presently the mother had pain in the head, and she also took them, in doses such as we have before described, producing, shortly after, distressing vomiting and violent purging ; and her adviser remarked, that the more actively they operated, the greater number of pills it was necessary to take ! An increase in the violence of the symptoms necessarily followed. The friends finding her becoming rapidly worse, sent for Mr. B——, a medical practitioner, who found her comatose, in which

state she remained up to the period of her death, four days after commencing to take the pills. The last day or two prior to the fatal event, the bowels had ceased to act, and at the post-mortem examination they were simply distended with air. He (Dr. J.) came to the conclusion that death was occasioned by the pills, from the fact that some portions of the tube were highly diseased, whilst other portions were perfectly healthy; and where the lodgement of the irritating substances had taken place, there the changes were evident, and the contractions appeared as if tied with a piece of silk, while there no morbid adhesions had supervened; these contractions, when found in the healthy portions of the canal, were a positive evidence of their having been produced by the direct application of an irritating substance. But he did not wish it to be understood that he believed that other powerful pills, taken in the same enormous quantities, would not have occasioned the same result. (The virtues of this quack medicine, however, are said to reside in large doses.) The affection of the head was attributed to the large doses of ext. conii,* which the pills, by analysis, were found to contain.

Mr. Verral said he had been requested to attend an old patient, who, he was convinced, had also met with his death from the same cause; and in whom the pills and other aperients, towards the close, ceased to produce any action. After death an immense mass of the pills and of oil was found wedged in the intestinal canal, in so putrid a state, and emitting so powerful an effluvium, that the like he never before encountered.

GRAHAMISM NOT A CAUSE OF INSANITY.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Some two or three weeks since, a professional gentleman, of high respectability, called on me and informed me that Dr. Lee, of the Insane Hospital at Charlestown, had written an article which he intended to publish in your Journal, and in which he had asserted, and endeavored to prove, that what is now popularly called "the Graham system" was peculiarly adapted to cause insanity, and that it had actually produced several cases already. I confess I was not a little surprised at this information, and had it not been so direct and so authentic I should have given no credit to it;—for it was not easy to believe that a physician of any standing, and who had the least regard for his professional character, would venture to advance so absurd—not to say so ridiculous an opinion. But I find Dr. Lee has really made his appearance in your Journal, according to the forewarnings which I had received. When I first read his article, I acknowledge that my indignation was somewhat excited. It appeared to me to be a wanton and wicked attempt to destroy my influence, and the cause of humanity in which I am engaged, by a most pal-

* We believe the manufacturer, in order to baffle the analyst, changes his formula (with the exception of the ingredients that give to his pills their powerful drastic aperient quality), as it best pleases his fancy, when preparing the means of deception, for no two analyses furnish the like product.—*Rep.*

pably disingenuous and dishonest tissue of groundless assertion, misrepresentations and false statements. Yet had it been of such a character as to exhaust its effects on myself alone, I should have regarded it as unworthy of my consideration. But it was not possible for me to resist the conviction, that, whether so designed or not, it was most highly calculated to effect immense mischief by exciting the fears of the weak and the timid, and thus producing the very results he has charged on the "Graham system." The power of a morbidly excited imagination on the intellectual organs and the nervous system generally, is well known; and there are few individuals of great nervous irritability—be their dietetic habits what they may—who would not be far, very far, more likely to become insane by being seriously and solemnly assured by a physician that they certainly would lose their reason and become deranged—especially if they considered the physician's station and knowledge such as to entitle his opinion to any respect.

Taking this view of Dr. Lee's attack on "*Grahamism*," I could not but regard it as a most dangerous article to be thrown before the public; and I therefore felt myself in duty bound to make such a reply to it, as its terrifying and dangerous character and apparently wicked design demanded. Under such views and feelings I replied to Dr. Lee with all the severity I then thought his article deserved. But having finished my reply, and reflected much on the subject, I concluded that the matter was of far too much importance to the public, and to the great cause of philanthropy, to be disposed of in a hasty and excited manner: and I therefore resolved to have an interview with Dr. Lee, and if possible to draw out from him such information as would enable me to place the whole matter before the public in its true form and light. I accordingly withheld my reply from your last number, and went over to Charlestown, in company with a medical gentleman of this city, and spent an hour or two in conversation with Dr. Lee: and although he decidedly refused to give me that information which I desired, and which I think I have a right to demand of him, yet I am very glad that I did not publish my reply before seeing him.

One of the greatest sources of error in all controversies of this kind, is the powerful propensity in almost every human breast, to attribute much more wickedness of motive and much less honesty of purpose and goodness of design to an antagonist than he really deserves. This source of error is glaringly manifest in Dr. Lee's attack on me; and would probably have been as manifest in my reply to him, had I not had an interview with him before I suffered my reply to go to the press. An hour's conversation with him, however, wholly subdued my indignation, and left in my breast none but the kindest of feelings towards him. I found him a very gentlemanly and intelligent young man; and—what in my estimation is above everything else—a professed believer in the religion of the gospel.

The result of my interview with Dr. Lee was this. I was convinced that in writing and publishing his attack on me, he was actuated by what he believed to be good motives and correct feelings. He had, from a very limited knowledge of the subject, persuaded himself that I was either a very designing man or under a great delusion, and that in either case,

I had already done much mischief in society, and, if not arrested in my career, should in all probability do much more; and therefore he considered it his duty to utter the cry of alarm and warn society of its danger. But I was also convinced that he had volunteered in this cause without due preparation. He had not given that attention to the subject which its immense importance and profound intricacy require. The science of vitality, and of intellect as connected with animal and organic life, is really but little understood, even by most of those who have given considerable attention to the subject, while the great body of mankind know nothing about it. But as no man can, from his own consciousness, determine how far his knowledge exceeds or falls short of that of another man, each is inclined to feel that his knowledge is as good as that of any body else: and hence we continually meet with individuals who offer their opinions with much confidence on subjects whose great depth and intricacy they have never even dreamed of.

But to the article of Dr. Lee.—“I was highly gratified,” says he, “to find Dr. Bell’s essay to be, in general, what I regard as the true doctrine upon this subject.” And what is true of Dr. Bell’s essay? Take it and strike out all those passages in which he indulges in sneer and sarcasm about modern Pythagoreans, &c. without adding anything to the strength of his position—and then read his connected argument attentively, and you will find that all his facts and reasonings go decidedly to favor the “Graham system.” He, in the first place, shows correctly and conclusively that the evidence of comparative anatomy proves man to be naturally a fruit and vegetable-eating animal. “Naturalists,” says he, “have evidently been predetermined to make him, by the rules of natural science, an omnivorous animal. *To arrive at this, however, they seem rather to have been forced to jump to a conclusion, than to arrive at it by a legitimate deduction.*” He then, in the regular concatenation of his argument, goes on to show that the people of New England are in danger of eating flesh too freely:—he admits “that one of the most crying abuses in our system of diet, is *the over-abundant employment of flesh,*” and with much propriety he cautions the people of New England against this evil. He declares that “he has found, on pretty extended investigation into the habits of the first settlers of that part of the country where he resides, who were pre-eminent for health, longevity and bodily strength (so much so, that a distinguished collector of statistical facts has drawn most of his illustrations and premises on longevity from them), *that a much less amount of animal food was formerly employed than at the present day.*” It is true that Dr. Bell freely intersperses his facts and reasonings of this kind with gratuitous assertions and sneers of a contrary bearing:—but still, I say, take Dr. Bell’s dissertation, and strip it of all extraneous matter—all gratuitous assertion and unbecoming sneer and sarcasm, and reduce it to its naked principles, facts and reasonings, and every unprejudiced reader will unhesitatingly admit that its aim is to dissuade mankind from eating flesh. And excepting the single question of the necessity for flesh in the diet of man, Dr. Bell’s essay almost perfectly coincides with my written lectures. In regard to quantity, mastication, deglutition, &c. &c. they so nearly agree, that one

might well be considered a copy of the other, if such a thing had been possible.

Dr. Lee is sorry that I did not immediately attempt a refutation of Dr. Bell's argument. It is difficult to satisfy those who are determined not to be satisfied. I have repeatedly stated that, between Dr. Bell and myself, there is no difference of opinion as to the anatomical argument. On the physiological ground, Dr. Bell offers no argument. He merely *asserts* his fundamental position, and then goes on to build his superstructure upon it; and I have already stated two or three times, that the physiological evidence is extended over so wide a field, that it cannot, with any propriety, be presented in your Journal, but shall be presented in another form as soon as possible.

"Such a work," says Dr. Lee, "cannot fail to be useful, &c. *provided* it is an *honest* and *complete* disclosure of *all* his observations. But will Mr. G. *give* the result of *all* his cases—of the ultimate as well as the immediate effects of his experiments?" I marvel that an honest mind, and more especially that a heart imbued with the charity of the blessed gospel, could have put such a question. But I will find an apology for Dr. Lee in the error and prejudice under which he was laboring. Yet, in the name of truth and humanity, let me ask—what inducement does he suppose I can have to be dishonest in such a matter? Can he join with the vulgar herd, in the notion that I am pushing this enterprise as a mere money-making scheme; regardless of every other consideration than my pecuniary success? I should be more stupid than what Dr. Lee seems to regard as essential to mental sanity, if such were my object—for, of all subjects in nature, I have chosen the last that a wise or a cunning man would select for such a purpose. The veriest *imbecile* in the community would know better than to expect that an opposition to all the darling customs, indulgences and appetites of mankind, would be the best way to open men's purses, and induce them to give their money to the opposer. How much easier and more successful would it have been for me to get up a course of some half a dozen lectures on the ground assumed by Dr. Bell—merely regulating, in some slight degree, the customs already existing in society. And with how much greater and more certain pecuniary success might I have devoted myself to lecturing on phrenology, geology, and several other subjects—and with one-fourth part of the study that I have given to physiology.

But perhaps Dr. Lee will take up another cry of the vulgar herd, and say that I am seeking notoriety and fame; and that for this consideration I am zealously pushing forward my enterprise, regardless of the best interests of society and of the health and happiness of my fellow creatures. Yet is it possible Dr. Lee can suspect me of such a low measure of contemptible ambition as to desire to associate my name with the charlatans and empirics, who are ever and anon rising up and blustering themselves into a brief notoriety, merely to render themselves odious to the wise and virtuous, and then sink into their native oblivion, or only be remembered with infamy? In the full honesty of my soul I will confess that I should be glad to be *worthy* of being remembered as a benefactor of my race, and that I am earnestly endeavoring to render myself thus worthy. But

I assure Dr. Lee I am not so ignorant of the history of the world, and of the nature of man and things, but that I well know that however notorious a man may make himself while living, if his reputation is not founded on the deep and immutable principles of truth, he cannot hope to be remembered with honor by those who shall come after him. I well know that if the system which I am teaching is in any degree fallacious, whatever may be my success in keeping it alive while I continue to urge it on, yet in all that it is defective it must ultimately and inevitably detract from my reputation, and throw suspicion on the soundness of my judgment, or the purity of my motives. I know if the system which I teach should in the end prove to be founded in error, and incompatible with the constitutional interests of man, and destructive to the health and happiness of my fellow creatures, I must sooner or later be regarded either as an exceedingly deluded man, or as a base deceiver, who was willing to sacrifice the welfare of others to secure for himself a temporary notoriety, or a pecuniary emolument. I know, too, if I should discover any or all of the doctrines which I teach to be erroneous, and promptly forsake them and acknowledge my error, and go on to teach what I found to be really true with the same zeal that I now manifest, I should lose no reputation by it, but should secure the confidence of all, that I was actuated by the love of the truth and the spirit of philanthropy, and thus take the only course by which I could rationally hope to be remembered with honor as a philanthropist. Now, then, I ask again, what motive can Dr. Lee suppose I can have to be dishonest in my statements, or in any manner to keep back the truth? I say to him, then, with as entire honesty of soul as I could have at the bar of God—"Mr. Graham *will* give the result of *all* his cases, of the ultimate as well as the immediate effects of his experiments," so far as his knowledge extends. You shall have all the facts that I know of, if you desire them; for be assured you cannot be more anxious to know everything concerning the subject, than I am to have you.

Had Dr. Lee, by careful and accurate observation and investigation, ascertained any serious defects or errors or dangerous tendencies in the principles which I teach, and with the fairness of a candid man presented them to me, I can assure him that no man living would more readily or more gladly and thankfully have received his corrections than I should have done. But when he comes forward to present his charges with such evident disingenuousness—such a strong prejudice—it is not possible for me, nor for any one who is capable of judging in the case, to place entire confidence in his statements. As if determined to make out his case, at the sacrifice of whatever may be in his way, he hesitates not to accuse every one of insanity who opposes his design. There is not a cultivated and candid individual in the civilized world that can read his communication without being shocked at the apparent wantonness with which he endeavors to throw the suspicion of insanity on every one whose experience contradicts his favorite theory. I do not profess to be deeply read in civil law; but certainly if there be any efficiency in law to protect individuals from the grossest outrages upon character, this

production of Dr. Lee has rendered him highly obnoxious to a penal process.

Dr. Lee "earnestly calls upon the members of the medical profession, and the philanthropists of every profession, in those towns where Mr. Graham and *his disciples* have lectured, to give us the results of the system of living he recominends." Most heartily would I join with Dr. Lee in this call, if all those on whom we make the call would honestly and faithfully examine every case in all its details, on which they were to report, before they made out their report. But Dr. Lee ought to know, and I presume he does know, that not only in those places where I have lectured, but everywhere else, all persons, of every profession and description, who have not heard my lectures, and fairly and honestly examined my principles, are most rankly prejudiced against me and my doctrines, and feel the strongest desire to prove me and my doctrines erroneous and pernicious. Now, then, how is it possible for such persons to report with any candor or honesty, in regard to the results of the system of living which I teach? If they find an individual who has attended my lectures, or in any measure adopted the principles which I teach, and afterwards become sick, or insane, or defunct, will they not, with the utmost alacrity and feeling of triumph—without taking the least pains to ascertain whether there may not have been other and ample causes for the effects—confidently assert that such a person was made sick by the Graham system—such a person was made insane by the Graham system—and such a person was killed by the Graham system? Take Dr. Lee himself, for instance. He is a physician in the Insane Hospital at Charlestown, and, if I am correctly informed (by medical gentlemen of high reputation in Boston), was a student under the late Dr. Todd, of Hartford, and belongs to the Brunonian school, or stimulating system of practice, and treats his insane patients upon this principle, making a free use, in his practice, of flesh, wine and opium. Now, then, Dr. Lee feels himself justified in this practice by the whole course of his professional education, and confirmed in it by his own personal and professional experience, although he must know that that experience is wholly *ex parte*;—and while he entertains these views and feelings, he must of necessity regard diametrically opposite views as entirely erroneous, and by all his partiality for his own views and his desire to support and defend them, he must necessarily be disposed to prove the contrary views in the wrong: and therefore it is morally impossible for him to make correct statements concerning views towards which he feels such a powerful hostility. If any one doubts this, let him consider the contradictory statements and assertions which have been made by hundreds of physicians on the subject of contagion and non-contagion.

But, to Dr. Lee's questions. "How many who adopted this system of living, with their physiological and psychological powers in full vigor, lost that vigor and sunk into a state of greater or less mental and physical imbecility?" To this question, I reply, that the great majority of those who have attended my lectures, have been such as were more or less afflicted with chronic disease of some kind or other; and so far as I know, very few who were in full health and vigor have ever in any considerable

measure adopted the system which I teach. More than nine-tenths of those who have adopted it, have been chronic invalids; and these have been afflicted with almost every known form of disease that "flesh is heir to." To suppose that any regimen or mode of treatment can save every individual, whatever may be the kind or stage of the disease, is egregiously unreasonable. Some who have adopted the system in the last stage of pulmonary consumption, have of course died; yet in all such cases that I have seen or heard of, there has always been a very great mitigation of distressing symptoms, and the last days and hours have been comparatively free from pain, and the death easy; while, on the other hand, a large number of persons who were laboring under very alarming symptoms, and apparently in a very advanced stage of pulmonary consumption, have adopted the system and recovered excellent health, after having been subjects of unsuccessful medical treatment, in some instances for several years.

Another class who have adopted the system, are those who have almost destroyed their constitution by excessive masturbation in early life, and afterward endeavored to brace up their feeble powers by a generous diet of flesh, high-seasoning, wine, and various tonics. These, on adopting the system, have very generally at first experienced considerable diminution of muscular power, and loss of weight; but where they have persevered with any consistency, they have invariably improved in every respect, and in the course of twelve months have been restored to excellent health, and much greater vigor than they ever before possessed.

Another class who have adopted the system, are those who, having found themselves breaking down under their dietetic excesses, had recourse to hygeian pills, steaming, lobelia, &c. and followed up the use of these till they had prostrated all the powers of their digestive organs, and brought upon themselves very painful and alarming symptoms of disease; and in this situation they have been induced to try in some measure the efficacy of the system which I teach. These having kept themselves up by stimulants as long as they could, and then suddenly cut off all, and taken to a mild unstimulating vegetable diet, have generally experienced a considerable increase of debility, at first; but, so far as I know, with one exception, they have in the course of five or six months begun to improve, and in twelve or fifteen months have been restored to health. In one instance, an interesting young man came to me completely prostrated in all his physiological powers;—he was not able to walk without support. He told me that for one year he had been in the habit of taking a very large dose of hygeian pills every night on going to bed, and eating freely of beef-steak, roast-beef, &c. the next day. For a while, at first, he increased in strength, and very rapidly gained in weight; but in a few months began to lose, and had continued to fail till he was reduced to the condition I found him in. I saw no reason to hope that he could live long, and gave him no encouragement to adopt the "Graham system;" but he informed me that flesh and everything stimulating distressed him exceedingly, and I told him that a pure vegetable diet, under proper general regulations, would probably alleviate his distress, and make the remnant of his days the most comfortable. This, he

afterwards told me, he found to be true, but he did not live more than three months.

In short, then, though it has perhaps been generally true that those who have adopted the system of living which I teach, have, for from three weeks to three months, experienced a greater or less degree of physiological depression, or diminution of physical power, on forsaking a *more* for a *less* stimulating diet, yet, with the particular exceptions I have named, I have never known any to fail of improving greatly in health in the course of twelve months, and, in almost every instance that I have known or heard of, they have in that time been restored to excellent health in every respect; and this, too, in many cases, after having suffered exceedingly with painful disease of five, ten, twenty, and even thirty years standing.

In all these cases, so far as I have known or heard, there has been a decided, and in most instances a very great increase of bodily power. Farmers, mechanics, and laborers of every description, have found themselves able to endure labor for a longer time and to accomplish more in a given time. And if their own testimony can be taken, they have all experienced an increase of intellectual clearness and *power*. But Dr. Lee ought to know the difference between intellectual *power* and intellectual cultivation or wealth. An individual may have great intellectual *power*, and yet have very little intellectual cultivation and discipline. Correct habits of living will greatly increase a man's intellectual power to become a profound mathematician, but will not make him a mathematician without the study of that science.

Question second.—How many became insane? I will answer this as far as I know. J. H., of New York, attended my lectures and partially adopted the system of living. When he commenced attending, and during the whole course and for some time afterward, his mind was in a state of deep perplexity on the subject of religion; whenever I met him he talked on this subject:—he was unsettled about his creed. Very soon after he partially adopted the “Graham system,” and before it could have had any considerable effect on him, I heard it rumored that he was deranged. I called at his house and found his family in great trouble concerning him; I then found him and talked with him an hour or two, but perceived not the least symptom of insanity about him. He said he had misjudged in making a bargain, and his friends had called it insanity. It was undoubtedly a species of that same kind of insanity that men of business, who enter into new speculations, are every day exhibiting. I advised him and his friends what course I thought it best for him and them to pursue, and have heard nothing more of his insanity. Another gentleman, of great nervous excitability, whose constitution had been exceedingly injured in youth, attended my lectures in New York, and to a considerable extent adopted the “Graham system.” His health improved very much in every respect. The season of business came on. He was a man of extensive business, and had the oversight of the whole himself; attended to all his money concerns, &c. &c. His business was exceedingly prosperous. In the midst of this he entered pretty largely into purchases of real estate; and, added to that, he had a very important

law-suit pending, the whole care of which rested upon him. All these things moved on prosperously, and stimulated his mind in a high degree, and made his mental labor excessively great. He felt well and vigorous, and presuming wholly on the improved state of his health, neglected exercise entirely—became very irregular in his meals—sat up and kept his mind intensely employed till twelve, one, and sometimes two o'clock at night, and then went to bed under great mental excitement, with his brain surcharged with blood. In this manner he continued on till the season of business had passed by, in great prosperity; his real estate purchases were completed with great advantage, and his law suit had terminated in his favor. All these intellectual stimulants, which had for several weeks kept his mind in a very high state of excitement, were cut off at once, and left his nervous system in a very similar condition with that of the drunkard's when all intoxicating liquors are suddenly taken from him; in this condition he went to a religious meeting, and heard a most alarming discourse on future punishment. Hell was described in the most terrific manner, and his nervous sensibilities were harrowed up in the highest degree. Under this morbid excitement the thought struck him that he might have committed the unpardonable sin. This filled him with deep horror, and the terrible thought haunted him continually and occupied his whole mind. He at once became extremely melancholy, and soon sunk into utter despair and neglected all the principles which I had taught him. In short, it was a decided case of nervous, melancholy insanity. A physician was called in, who without hesitation declared it a result of the "Graham system," and ordered him to be put at once on a diet of beef-steak and wine, and I believe prescribed a free exhibition of opium, and a pillow of hops at night. In three days from this, I heard of the case, and hastened to visit the patient. I found him in a most deplorable condition. He was in the deepest despair and anguish, and was resolutely determined on taking his own life. His wife was a highly intelligent and cultivated lady. She told me he had not slept for three nights, and that he had been growing worse ever since the physician was called in. I at once changed the mode of treatment. Ordered him to eat nothing but a little coarse wheaten bread, at his regular meal-times—to drink nothing but water, to take no opium nor any other drugs—to take a tepid bath just before going to bed—and after he was in bed to have the room still and some one gently comb his head till he fell asleep—to rise in the morning and take a cold shower bath, rub off briskly with a coarse towel and flesh-brush—clothe himself and take a horse-back ride of five miles in company with some cheerful friend—eat a light breakfast, and then go out and seek amusement and exercise in the open air. The result was that he slept sweetly the first night after I saw him, and in a few weeks was restored to excellent health of body and mind. If I had not happened to be in the city at this time, this gentleman would in all probability have been sacrificed to an erroneous practice, and the whole blame would have been laid to the "Graham system." It ought to be observed that this gentleman had had much such a turn several years before, when he was living in the ordinary manner, but he was much longer in recovering.

One more case.—Mrs. C., of New York, attended my lectures and pretty thoroughly adopted the system;—according to her own statement, her health in every respect very greatly improved. She continued in this way for about three years, doing well. She was an affectionate wife and fond mother. Her husband was convicted of a criminal offence and sent to the State's Prison. This filled her with overwhelming sorrow and anguish. The disgrace of her husband and the condition of herself and children preyed upon her mind continually. She neglected almost every principle that I had taught her, as she herself now avows, and finally became decidedly insane. This lady I have never seen, but state her case from the testimony of those on whom I can depend.—These are all the cases of insanity that have come to my knowledge in persons who have adopted the "Graham system," with the exception of two others. Two gentlemen of Portland, who attended my lectures, have since, as I am told, been in the lunatic asylum at Charlestown, and are two of the cases stated by Dr. Lee, but I have seen and conversed with the family friends of both of those individuals, and am well informed that neither is in the least degree attributable to the "Graham system." S. GRAHAM.

[To be continued.]

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MARCH 16, 1836.

GALL'S WORKS.*

NEED we say more? The bare announcement of the fact that the works of the immortal Gall are for the first time translated into the English language, and thus placed within the reach of every one, would, we are convinced, have been sufficient. But we should do violence to our own feelings, and injustice to the talented translator and enterprising publishers of the volumes before us, if we let this opportunity pass without paying a merited tribute to genius, and using our influence to extend a knowledge of the philosophy of man universally—and especially in the medical profession.

Hitherto we have derived our whole knowledge of the writings of this founder of a new school of philosophy from the works of his followers, and the garbled extracts of British reviewers. We have drank eagerly of the streams of knowledge which have flowed around us from the pens of Spurzheim, the Combes, and other writers of inferior note; but now the fountain is opened. At this every lover of philosophy will rejoice. It is impossible to read the works of Gall, without being imbued with a portion of that philosophical spirit which in his mind reigned supremely. He searched after truth with singleness of purpose, unconquerable perseverance and herculean power; and these are the monuments of his success

* On the Functions of the Brain and each of its parts: with observations on the possibility of determining the instincts, propensities, and talents, or the Moral and Intellectual Dispositions of Men and Animals, by the configuration of the Brain and Head. By FRANÇOIS JOSEPH GALL, M. D. Translated from the French, by WINSLOW LEWIS, JR. M. D., M. M. S. S. In six volumes. Boston. Marsh, Capen & Lyon. 1836.

—these the testimonials of his greatness. But we sat not down to write his eulogy ; abler hands have done him ample justice. His biography is before us.

There was a time when the province of the physician was confined to narrow limits, and that by the absurd dogmas of the schools of exploded metaphysics. There was a time when to bleed, to blister, and to purge, to mend a broken bone, or amputate a limb, was the extent to which he might proceed in the discharge of his professional duty. To attempt to govern the affections, to control the passions, to restore the intellect, was to intrude upon the province of divinity. The maxim that "there is no medicine for the mind diseased," was sagely quoted by those who looked upon the body of man as a "dark closet" in which the maniac soul was cutting its antic capers, without there being the possibility of taming it ;—for why ? it was unnatural, spiritual, and of course could not be affected by drugs and medicines. The times have changed. A new philosophy has arisen, and man is now studied as the most interesting object for investigation. Gall swept away the cobweb theories of ages, and the true philosophy of man burst upon him in such striking relief, that he mistook at the first view some of its outlines. It cannot be pretended that his first view of it was not a distorted one ; but when he looked again, and when the defaced picture was thoroughly cleared of the dust which had been thrown upon it by metaphysicians—when he and his coadjutor had placed it in a favorable light—it shone forth, a picture of perfect beauty.

Now the enlightened physician may study man as he is—nay, he is bound to know all that can be known of his body and soul, and of their nature and relations. Without this knowledge, he is but a miserable cobbler of his species—an unfinished workman, to whom nothing but a brute should be entrusted. For a man, at this day, to attempt to deal with God's image without as perfect a knowledge of its attributes as can be obtained, is inexcusable ; and this is becoming, each day, more and more the opinion of all men of sense and intelligence. The intelligence of physicians must keep pace with the advance of the age, if they would retain the stand which has hitherto been granted them ; and if they do this, they will be more appreciated than when they were too ignorant to judge of the importance of their profession.

The reputation of Dr. Gall is sufficient for the literary merits of the work under consideration ; and to those who are acquainted with Dr. Lewis, it would be unnecessary to commend the manner in which he has executed a translation which lays the profession, and the public at large, under such a weight of obligation. The names of the publishers are a sufficient guarantee for the beauty of its mechanical execution. The portrait of Dr. Gall is a fine profile, and shows the honesty, perseverance, and intellectual greatness of that extraordinary man, in bold and striking relief. No wonder that he said, on his death-bed, that his cabinet wanted but the addition of his own head to prove the truth of his doctrines.

NEW AND SUCCESSFUL REMEDY FOR THE CROUP.

In the following note, from J. D. Fisher, M.D. of this city, he speaks of a new and successful mode of treating that alarming disease of childhood, the croup, which ought to be made known through the newspapers, wherever they circulate. Should subsequent observation establish the fact of the superiority of the remedy, Dr. Fisher deserves to be remembered in the first class of public benefactors.

MY DEAR DOCTOR,—I was called, at five o'clock last evening, to a child which was laboring under a severe attack of the croup, consequent upon a sudden disappearance of the eruption of measles. The croupy symptoms appeared suddenly, and had existed one hour before I was called. The child, on my arrival, was in extreme agony, struggling and gasping for breath; and I thought the little sufferer was in danger of immediate suffocation. The first means I employed was the application of very hot, almost boiling, water to the throat and upper part of the chest, by means of large sponges. These applications I repeated every two minutes, and immediately the skin became coated and very red, and in the course of a quarter of an hour the little girl breathed much easier, and her croupy cough and respiration became less shrill and tubular, and much modified. Soon after making the first applications of the sponges to the throat, I wrapped the child in a woollen blanket wrung out in hot water, as a substitute for a warm bath, and gave it twenty drops of the wine of antimony in a little sweetened water, which she swallowed with difficulty. I persevered in the applications of the hot moist sponges for an hour, when the child was so much relieved that I ventured to leave it for half an hour—ordering the remedy to be continued. On my return, I found the patient breathed with comparative freedom, its respiration and cough less sonorous and shrill, and its pulse softer and more natural. I recommended the applications to be continued until the child should be decidedly relieved, and prescribed six drops of antimonial wine to be given every hour in a little water. The mother of the child informed me, this morning, that she continued to apply the hot-water remedy for five hours, but not so often as I applied them—that the child continued to improve, and fell asleep soon after I left it. This morning she is bright and playful, and asks for food. The respiration is quite easy—pulse soft and natural—cough humid and loose—its sounds having lost the shrill croupy character.

I was induced to employ the above remedy, in consequence of having lately read in a foreign journal that it had been suggested and employed by a German physician with decided and uniform success. As the remedy is simple, and is at ready command, and as its application in the present case was attended with such decided and immediate happy effects, I would with a good deal of confidence advise mothers and nurses in similar cases to apply it early and perseveringly until medical aid can be obtained. The sponges should be gently squeezed before they are applied, so that the water shall not ooze from them, and should be gradually compressed during the time they are applied, so as to continue the temperature up to the highest degree that can be sustained by the patient. Should sponges not be at hand, napkins wrung out in the boiling water may serve as good substitutes.

President of the Massachusetts Medical Society.—Since the announcement of the determination of the present eminent presiding officer of this Society, to retire from the chair, a very general impression prevails that George Cheyne Shattuck, M.D. of Boston, possesses the requisite qualifications, beyond almost any other individual, for becoming his successor. In this expression of public sentiment, we most heartily concur, fully believing that no medical gentleman in the Commonwealth is more sincerely devoted to the best interests of the institution, or would make

greater exertion to sustain and perpetuate its influence. The election devolves upon the Counsellors, the day following the next annual meeting.

From the first formation of this Society, there have been a succession of presidents, whose names give lustre to the annals of American medical literature and science. If the same high principles which have guided the Council in all former years, are still ascendant, and distinguished moral worth and professional attainments have claims upon its official deliberations, Dr. Shattuck will be the next president, without a dissenting voice.

Stagner's Truss.—The instrument referred to in Dr. Leach's advertisement, in to-day's Journal, is before us, but no opportunity has yet presented for making trial of its advantages over others now in general use. Implicit confidence may be placed in the testimony of those gentlemen whose names are mentioned by the agent : if they are satisfied of its superiority, it is a recommendation that should be respected. It is our intention to ascertain, hereafter, the opinions of different surgeons, upon the comparative merits of Stagner's and Chase's trusses. The latter was well spoken of by Dr. Coates, in the last No. of the American Journal.

New Medical Books.—Mackintosh's Practice of Physic, with notes and additions, by Dr. Morton of Philadelphia ; Diagnosis of Diseases of the Chest, by Dr. Gerhard, of the same city, together with various other publications, recently from the press, have been received within a few days. Each one will form the subject of a distinct analysis, as opportunity presents. We are gratified that these valuable productions are to be procured in Boston—and to show our interest in them, we offer our personal services in forwarding the orders of medical gentlemen, residing in the country, to Russell, Shattuck, & Co. who have them on sale.

Obstruction of the Nostril.—A case of complete obstruction of the right nostril, and partial obstruction of the left, following a catarrh, recently occurred in London, accompanied with pain over the root of the nose, and a sanious discharge which excoriated the upper lip. Various remedies were tried without success, but relief was eventually obtained by the gradual introduction of a probe, with a pledget of lint, which was increased in quantity from day to day, the probe finally reaching the throat, and giving an opportunity to apply the black lotion to a part of the ulcerated surface. After two or three days, the patient, by a forcible effort, expelled a large mass of curdy matter, which appeared to be inspissated pus, retained by the closure of the passage. He recovered in a fortnight from this, after having suffered for several months.

Rheumatism.—The President of the London Medical Society, said, at a late meeting of the Society, that he believed that rheumatism, following gonorrhœa, was totally distinct from any other species of rheumatism, and that it certainly was a specific disease, requiring a specific remedy. Colchicum only afforded relief by lowering the circulation in the treatment of rheumatism ; he would say, that for muscular rheumatism, colchicum was the best remedy ; in neuralgic rheumatism, the antiphlogistic treatment was demanded ; and in gonorrhœal rheumatism, or that form which

affected the joints, he considered calomel and opium to be the most effectual remedy. So fully satisfied was he of the great efficiency of colchicum in muscular rheumatism, that he did not fear to say that nineteen cases out of twenty would yield to it.

Congenital Osteo-Sarcomatous Tumor.—Sir B. Brodie lately removed a finger on account of a tumor of this kind. It was congenital in the external condyle of the left ulnar, and affected the first and second phalanges of the ring finger of the same side. An operation for a similar affection was once before performed by Mr. B.

Medical Miscellany.—Mr. Nichols gave a lecture at the Temple on Friday evening last, on the phenomena of Animal Magnetism.—Dr. Samuel G. Howe's address before the Boston Phrenological Society, is very much admired.—A new craniological instrument, for measuring the size of the head, called *cephalometer*, made of brass, has been invented of late, and offered on sale at some of the bookstores.—There are 260 students attending the course of lectures in Transylvania University, which appears destined, ultimately, to rival the Philadelphia medical institutions.—The Governor of New York State has appointed W. Rockwell, M.D. Health Officer, J. R. Manley, Resident Physician, and Smith Culler, Health Commissioner.

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DIED—At the Island of Madeira, Abel J. Starr, M.D. 28.—At St. Augustine, Dr. Charles R. Kennedy, of Milton.

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E. W. LEACH, M.D. has been appointed agent for the application of Stagner's Truss. The attestations of Professors Gibson, Pattison, Drake and McLellan, as to its adaptation to accomplish the desired end in the cure of hernia, have been before the public. It has also been examined and commended by distinguished medical gentlemen of our own city, among whom are Drs. Jeffries, Warren, Ware and Shattuck, some of whom have examined cases in the city which they pronounced successfully treated by this instrument. The attention of the profession is invited to this truss, and for this purpose one is left at the office of the Medical and Surgical Journal—as also with the agent at his office, No. 113 Hanover Street.
Boston, March 16, 1836.

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VOL. XIV.]

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1836.

[NO. 7.]

A CASE OF PROTRACTED CROUP,

SUCCESSFULLY TREATED WITH UNUSUALLY LARGE DOSES OF TARTAR EMETIC
AND IPECACUANHA.

BY JOHN P. METTAUER, M.D. PROF. OF SURGERY AND SURGICAL ANATOMY IN THE
WASHINGTON MEDICAL COLLEGE OF BALTIMORE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE subject of the following case was a male infant, ætat. about nineteen months, and uncommonly healthy (and well grown) anterior to this attack. I learnt from the parents of the child, upon my arrival, that it had been ill something like forty-eight hours; and for the last eighteen seemed to be dying. My investigation of the case, disclosed the discouraging facts, that a profound stupor, increasing coldness, and lividness of the extremities, had existed about eighteen hours. At this time these appearances were most strikingly manifest, attended with a dilated state of the pupils—the eyes half closed, and the corneæ dry, corrugated, and incrustated, in consequence of their long and constant exposure to the atmosphere. Respiration was performed with the greatest difficulty;—a most appalling and horrific stridula suffocatio incessantly vibrated in the ear, and its discordant notes were the more distressing, from being emitted through a patulous mouth, which had been constantly open from the commencement of the coma. The pulses at the wrists had very nearly become quiescent, and only gave evidence that life had not entirely abandoned these processes of the circulatory system, by a thready and barely perceptible pulsatory vibration. All attempts to arouse the child, even for a moment, were utterly fruitless: it lay with its head, hands and feet perfectly motionless, and with the most entire relaxation of their sustaining muscles. Deglutition was performed with very great difficulty; indeed, every attempt to excite the effort, by presenting ordinary liquids, threatened suffocation. The tongue and fauces had become dry in the extreme, and the former greatly contracted in size, presenting a pale, cold, and shrivelled appearance, from breathing with the mouth constantly open for so long a time.

It was not remarkable, that under circumstances so unfavorable, I should have hesitated for more than half an hour, after my arrival, before I would consent to do more than examine and observe the progress of the symptoms. Becoming interested for the unhappy mother of the infant, whose distress was greatly augmented by my reluctance to do anything, I resolved to make an effort, if only to quiet her feelings. The first step was directed to the restoration of warmth in the extremities, by

affected the joints, he considered calomel and opium to be the most effectual remedy. So fully satisfied was he of the great efficiency of colchicum in muscular rheumatism, that he did not fear to say that nineteen cases out of twenty would yield to it.

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